



Knights of Columbus
Maryland State Council
P.O Box 1468
Bowie, MD 20717

August 2025

Memorandum to: Past State Deputies, District Deputies, Grand Knights, Convention Delegates/Alternates, State Directors, and State Chairmen

Each Grand Knight is instructed to have this letter read in its entirety at the next Council meeting.

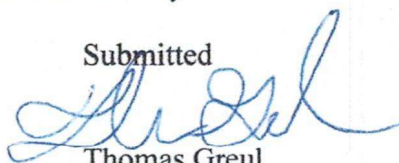
The next election of State Officers will take place at the 128th Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Council on May 1-3, 2026. To continue fraternalism and comradery among all members of the Maryland Jurisdiction, the following campaign rules and guidelines are established. These rules and guidelines are to be adhered to by not only those interested in elective office but also by all members of the Jurisdiction.

- 1) No one shall publicly announce his candidacy for elective office until August 1, 2025. All solicitations of consideration for office, of any nature, are prohibited before that date. A potential candidate may assemble a core team and meet privately with them prior to August 1st, for the purpose of planning their campaign.
- 2) Candidates must notify the State Deputy, in writing, of their intent to run for elective office. After September 30th, the State Deputy will notify the Maryland Jurisdiction of those who declared their candidacy.
- 3) Expenditures on behalf of a candidate is limited to a maximum of \$1,500. Included in this limit are funds of a candidate himself, funds donated, the reasonable cash value of in-kind services such as signs and "giveaways," and special foods or candidate-specific decorations. Excluded from this amount are costs associated with automotive transportation to and from Districts and Councils.
- 4) Fundraising by a Council, Assembly or other individuals/groups on behalf of a candidate is prohibited.
- 5) To control excessive electoral signage at the State Convention, each candidate is limited to one banner. This banner may be displayed only in the first-floor entrance hall (between the entrance and the elevators) and may not be greater than three feet wide by six feet high in size. The posting of any campaign materials outside of the identified locations is prohibited and candidates will be held responsible for any damage to hotel property without exception.
 - a. Banners may not be attached to any part of the hotel.
 - b. Banners may not be on the carpet in the hallway leading to the meeting room.
 - c. The order of candidate banner placement will be determined by lot prior to banner placement.
- 6) Each candidate is allowed a one-time mailing or distribution of a resume to the Grand Knights and Delegates prior to the State Convention. The cost of this mailing is included in the maximum expenditure allowance.
- 7) The State Council will post a Candidates Portal with a picture of each candidate running for elected office and information about that candidate on the State Webpage. In addition, the State Council will produce a video of each candidate that will be posted on the State webpage. This video will allow each candidate 7 minutes to present his platform. Any other use of electronic media of any kind, including emails, the internet, or social media, such as but not limited to websites, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, is prohibited.

- 8) In addition, a Council may adopt a resolution announcing the candidacy of one of its members for a particular state office. That resolution may announce the candidacy, announce the office, and set forth the qualifications of the individual for that office. The resolution may also state that the Council supports the candidacy of the individual. The resolution can be transmitted by the Council to other Councils in the jurisdiction and to each of the State Officers. An Assembly, Chapter, or any other organization, other than a Council, is prohibited from passing and distributing such a resolution of support.
- 9) Information forums may be organized in accordance with the following guidelines:
- a. Only District Deputies may organize and host informational candidate forums.
 - b. A Single District or a group of neighboring Districts may organize forums.
 - c. All announced candidates must be invited to a forum. Announced candidates must be informed of a scheduled forum in sufficient time to permit each announced candidate to arrange his schedule to be able to participate. A minimum of three-weeks advance notice is mandated.
 - d. A forum audience shall consist of any brother Knight in good standing.
 - e. No makeup forum is required for a candidate who cannot come to a scheduled forum.
 - f. The forum is an information process, not a debate. It is an opportunity for candidates to inform delegates of their family, occupational background, involvement and responsibilities in the Knights of Columbus, and what they hope to achieve as a State Officer.
 - g. Each candidate shall have no more than 7 minutes to address the forum. Questions will not be entertained. Time control is the responsibility of the District Deputy. The order for speaking shall be determined by lot prior to the start of the forum.
 - h. After the forum is closed, candidates can be available for one-on-one questions from any brother Knight in Good Standing in attendance.
 - i. If refreshments are served, they must be provided by the host district(s) and may be no more than light refreshments and without charge to attendees.
- 10) At their option, in addition to the forums, candidates may attend meetings of any local Council and may informally discuss their candidacy with any brother knight present after the meeting has been formally adjourned. During any meeting, the prospective candidate may not be announced or introduced as a candidate for the office of State Warden. If a candidate is a State Director, Co-Director, State Chairman or Co-Chairman, he may address the Council solely within the area of his state responsibility without any reference to his candidacy for State Office.
- 11) Everyone is expected to exercise good judgment in all activities involving the election of State Officers in keeping with the spirit and intent of the laws and regulations of the Order.
- 12) It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure that anyone advocating his candidacy also complies with the above guidelines. In this respect, it should be noted that adherence to these guidelines is a self-policing function. As honorable men, Catholic gentlemen, and brother Knights of Columbus, it is our expectation that all involved will assure a fair and fraternal process that will further strengthen the State Council.

If you have any questions concerning this directive, please feel free to discuss it with the State Deputy or State Advocate at any time.

Submitted



Thomas Greul
State Advocate

Approved



Anthony N. Salvemini
State Deputy